



California GARDEN



Photo by H. C. Miller
Pool at "La Collina Ridente" of Mrs. Herbert Evans

JULY
1937

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Summer Rose Care

By Frank Hardy Lane

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Jacaranda Ovalifolia

By Kate O. Sessions

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Fertilizer Analyzed

By Charles Scales

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How I Care for Roses

By FRANK HARDY LANE

I cannot tell what you and other men may do, but for my single self, I follow a course of treatment which I will roughly outline.

In the first place, I do not permit the bushes to become dry during July and August. I was once advised to water sparingly during these months so that the plants might rest. Since I am willing to get rid of as much work as possible, I followed this suggestion. I have abandoned this procedure and gone back to work. I irrigate enough to keep the ground reasonably moist. The soil in my garden is heavy. I wet the plants thoroughly about once a week. I think a bush is watered when the garden fork goes easily into the earth its full length. Besides irrigation, I use a fine spray on the foliage two or three times a week. I do this when the sun is shining, but when it is not hot enough to scald. I try to hit the underside of the leaves as well as the top. The spraying seems to lessen the mildew and to discourage the aphids. If these pests persist in spite of the water, I attack them with Evergreen or Black Leaf 40.

In the second place, I pull off rusty leaves and prune the spent blooms. This year the rust in my garden is especially bad, because I failed to use preventive measures at the proper time—last January. I was unavoidably delayed for a month in pruning and applying lime

sulphur to the bushes and ground. Consequently I have to pick rusty leaves now, and it is almost an endless job. But I must keep on, plucking them off, raking them up, and burning them. There are enemies—thrips, mildew, aphids, worms, Florida dogs, and beetles, damned enemies—and then comes rust. If it gets a good start, neither I nor all the king's oxen and all the king's men can stop its destructive course. I think it desirable to keep the spent blooms cut. I take the wheelbarrow with me about the garden every few days. Into this I throw the clippings. Ordinarily I prune so as to leave on the cane three or four eyes. It requires strength for the plant to develop the seed pods, and this energy might as well go into the making of new growth.

In the third place, I see that the bushes are well mulched. In the early spring I put about two inches of dairy manure on all the beds. This will probably last through the summer for a mulch. The use of this kind of fertilizer is always a gamble, not because the roses do not flourish, but because it brings weeds. One year I got Wild Morning Glory. I was unfortunate this spring. The manure was filled with Bermuda grass seed, which sprouted like a new lawn in some of the beds. I must prevent this grass from getting its roots into the soil. It was

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LaCollina Ridente

Those of us who are acquainted with a certain master-garden will recognize the pool which is pictured on the cover of this issue of California Garden. It is one of the numerous retreats created by the artistry of Mrs. Herbert Evans, of Plumosa Way.

Mrs. Evans is, in truth, a master. Her art embraces the understanding of facile, ever changing, living media. The winds, the seasons, the rains, the sun, the sweet growing things have all been factors, which she has harmonized into a flawless composition. But when her picture has once reached perfection, lo! it is followed by another mastergarden, and so on throughout the happy round of seasons and years, so that the Art Gallery of Gardens is hung with Mrs. Evans' handiwork.

But this artist is never satisfied with only the creation of a divine spot behind and in front of her liting, rose-embracing wall. To share with friends is a part of the beauty of her character. The members of the Floral Association, of which Mrs. Evans is a beloved member, will ever carry, tucked away in the choicest corners of our memories, thought pictures of the treasured visits to the perfect garden, and will cherish the master artist, who so unstintingly gave to us glimpses of beauty which uplift the soul.

—Alice Mary Greer.

Patronize "California Garden" Advertisers

Jacaranda Ovalifolia or Mimosaefolia

By Miss Kate O. Sessions
(Calif. Garden, 1927)

This is the large, spreading, blue flowering tree that has been blooming about our city since the latter part of June and is well worthy of more extensive planting.

This tree is a native of Brazil and its name is also Brazilian. It ranks among the 100 best flowering trees for subtropical regions and although well known in Florida it is a great success in height (50 feet) in Southern California. Its flowers are tubular and are arranged in large sprays and it belongs to the great Bignonia family. Our two fine vines, Bignonia cherere and venusta are its cousins, as are also the several good Tecomas we grow, both of shrubs and sturdy vines.

There is a large group in the N. W. corner of Balboa Park near the north end of Pershing Drive, but the soil is so poor and the land so sloping that they are all invalids and need to have dynamite to loosen up their dinner supply. You can't have a big growing tree without a big supply of good food, which means a big hole full of good soil and a reasonable supply of water. The good hole is the most necessary adjunct for successful planting.

There has never been a street planted to the Jacaranda here. There is one in Hollywood, Los Angeles, that I know of and we should have several here. Probably the Pacific Beach section is the most promising location because of the depth and quality of soil and the evenness of the grade of the land.

The Pink and Golden Shower trees are a tremendous asset to Honolulu, but the people there will tell you when you admire those trees, "Oh! but you should see the Jacaranda in bloom, it is so beautiful with its blue flowers."

All garden lovers are partial to blue flowers, and this is for us the grandest of such flowering plants. The foliage is large and like a beautiful fern leaf. Its habit is to drop

its leaves the latter part of April or early May and send out its sprays of flowering buds, and as the flowers begin to develop and show color. The new foliage is out in all its fern-like beauty which adds much to its glory. The tree needs staking and judicious pruning to develop a good straight trunk, and its top becomes large and spreading with age. I have seen old trees in Los Angeles with the trunk over a foot in diameter. Its location in the home garden is an important and serious question. One should anticipate its future development and so enjoy and preserve it when full grown. A tree needs to be 4 to 6 years old to show fine bloom. Then it looks as though a dark blue cloud had settled down on the garden and among the trees. The tree is quite sensitive to frost and in Los Angeles they are frequently severely cut back. They should not be planted in any low and frosty location.

TO A JACARANDA

Lovely exotic Jacaranda Tree,
Amid the palms you proudly lift
on high
Your leafy crown of fern-like foliage,
Beneath the glory of an alien sky.

Under the golden glances of the sun

Your boughs with countless blossoms bud and blow,
At night above your delicate fringing leaves,
Their silver lace the moonbeams lightly throw.

The gentle winds sometimes your branches stir,

Perchance from your green glooms the southern breeze
Brings whispers of songs or clash of castinets,

The phantom echoes of great memories.

Decked in your panoply of purple plumes,

Magnificent in regal state and stand,

Matchless and beautiful beyond compare,

A queen in exile in a foreign land.

—Lila Monroe Tainter.

The Small Garden

The size of a garden has little to do with its beauty. This will often depend on a man's pocket book, which we all know has nothing to do with good taste. The small house and garden on a lot 50x100 can be made to have an intimate charm not possible on a larger area. To achieve this is not easy for the smaller the place the more difficult it is to plan and plant.

There are a number of things which should be kept in mind, and of first importance perhaps is to avoid confusion. A small area cannot be many things or be planned for many uses, so that the problem is to find room for only those features that will harmonize and balance the whole. The more gardens you have seen and admired, the more garden pictures you have remembered and loved, and the more plants you have known and cherished, the harder it is to limit the choice for your own place. And yet it is this very elimination and simplification that is so necessary if your aim is to have a lovely small garden and not just a botanical or ornamental collection in the back yard.

Most of us like garden ornament and if the garden lends itself to a well designed sun dial and a simple bench take advantage of using these interesting and serviceable features but remember they will preclude adding a statue, a bird bath or a gazing globe. It should go without saying that the ubiquitous sunbonnet babies with watering cans, the wooden cranes, the gnomes and mushrooms are not good garden ornament.

There is no rule of the thumb for garden design but it is usually true that it is best to treat a small place in a formal or semi-formal manner. Don't shy from the word even though you do remember seeing some very stiff and uninteresting gardens made up of unrelated, geometrically shaped flower beds. In planning, think of symmetrical design as an underlying structure upon which to compose your plants as

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House Flowers and the Small Garden

By A BEGINNER

The larger and fancier house and garden magazines assume that each reader has at least an acre or so for garden enterprises. Such a magazine has been known to assert that "A cutting garden is a necessity. It is hopeless to attempt to take cut flowers out of your garden. You will spoil the entire effect." This is all very well for people who do not have to measure their land in feet, but it is merely wishful thinking for the city slicker whose fifty foot lot is primarily given over to housing the family and the car.

Fortunately by judicious compromise you can usually have your cake and eat it too, if you are willing to forego the icing. The small garden, carefully planned, intensively planted and lavishly fed will provide plenty of flowers for nine months out of a Southern California year. For the remaining months you can economize quite painlessly with Japanese arrangements which take much thought and no flowers.

Of course you have to have a plan. More than that you must have a not too difficult color scheme and stick to it. For if you are led astray by startling specialties they will not only clash with your dependable background of perennials but will not work in with your other flowers in the house. You have to make up your mind, also, to do without certain flowers that are out of scale. Gladioli, blooming once, are not for you. You need too many of them for effective indoor arrangements for the space you can afford them outside. Dahlias are too unwieldy a bush for the really limited border. Tulips, Hyacinths, Daffodils, the elegant and exquisite bulb family as a whole, must be used sparingly in the foreground for effect. Supporting them you must have plants of a more generous nature. In short, in a small space, anything that gives but one flower or grows into a large bush is an extravagance.

One short row of calla lilies will provide many flowers and use only

a narrow strip of shade. Primula self sowing in a cool spot are both garden and house ornaments. Thalictrum, later on, will keep that same corner and the house as well, full of lavender lace work. Marguerites, Daisies of all kinds, Penstemon, Pansies, Violas, will provide a few flowers and embroider the house and garden at the most unlikely times. Mexican Primroses will flare up in the spring and summer into a pink cloud that has to be forcibly deterred from taking over the whole border. Not only will they adorn the garden day after day, they will also provide endless bowls of flowers that are fragile only in appearance. Iris give you flowers when they are scarce and most of the year the green fans are an outdoor decoration.

As for annuals, planted closely and serially, they make the garden suitably sweet with Snapdragons, Stock and Larkspur; gay with Zinnias, Asters and the smaller Chrysanthemums. The more you pick the longer they bloom. As they decline they must be pulled out to give their successors a chance. But if you have not also Petunias, Alyssum, Forget-me-nots and Phlox, there will be times when your garden will be as sounding brass and tinkling cymbals. You will have to buy your house flowers and your face will be in the dust.

Roses, planted alone and tended with prayer, sprays, dusts and lavish oblations of commercial fertilizer will give you a few buds a day right up to pruning time, to say nothing of bowlsfull in the blooming seasons. Even a small place can find room for twenty rose bushes and several climbers, if the gardener does not waste his substance on riotous Cecile Brunners which either overwhelm him with fallen petals or retire into a life of meditation.

Of course such gardening as this partakes more of the subway rush than the contemplative calm of nature. You no sooner get your Snapdragon seedlings planted than you

begin to wonder just where you can put the stocks that are to take up their blooming cycle as the Snapdragons yellow. Then as you pull out the Snapdragons, you put in the Zinnias. If you are lucky, the Stocks by then will be hiding the bare ground where the Zinnias are beginning. You then begin to plan on where the Phlox will go, at the same time saving space for the Chrysanthemums which have been heeled in since last year. And the question is whether you will be able to get Asters in so that they will be tall enough to hide the bare ground when you pull up the last of the Zinnias.

Naturally so complex a schedule goes all awry for a beginner. It is necessary then to spread out the Petunias. Visitors' attention must be directed toward the Shasta Daisies scattered around for just such emergencies. And near the house, where it will catch the eye, you try to keep one small bed full of color. There you plant your few Tulips and Hyacinths, there you grow Ageratum and Lobelia when there is nothing else, there a few Pansies are kept furiously blooming. And, as a last resort, there is always a potted plant or two.

All the cutting you do for the house keeps the garden from being quite the mass of blossoms your heart desires but it does prolong the season of blooming. Sometimes the flowers tread on each others' heels. You find yourself relentlessly tearing out plants still in flower because their heirs need the sun. It makes you wonder if there should be social security for annuals.

By November when the bulbs are all planted, the roses cut down, the border spaded up, you are glad to relax for a month or so. You feel breathless as if you had been chasing rabbits, not snails, all year. But you have had your moments—moments of grandeur in which you have said truthfully, "Oh, yes, all from our little garden. There really are more flowers than we can use."

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June Activities

By ADA PERRY

The annual June birthday meeting of the San Diego Floral association was a huge success from the points of attendance, program, election and reports. There aren't any other points left on which it needed to be a success.

Attendance was ample, showing we know a good thing in these parts. Because program headliner was Charles Gibbs Adams, noted Los Angeles landscape architect, who gave a talk on native plants and their uses. His appearance was first of all an honorary gesture to Miss Kate Sessions, though the rest of us received the gracious impression that he liked us a little, too. And why the man needs to be a noted landscape architect when he can talk like he does, is one of the pleasant mysteries.

He's a husky person, too, because he gathered a small ton of plants and brought them down with him to illustrate his talk. And he brought an armful of most lovely butterfly tulips or mariposa to distribute among the ladies present. Same were pleased pink or any other color elected.

And we learned that native walnuts made buttons and dyes for early Californians. And blooms of the wild lilac and bulbs of the amole supplied soap. Seeds of wild lilac, wild cherry, chia sage and acorns of live oak made "cornmeal" after due leaching. California laurel or bay flavored soups. "Sage brush" or artemisia flavored cheeses and perfumed clothing. Native sweet clover repelled moths in clothing. And tea from gray leaved yerba santa was so severe in flavor that it "hexed" colds.

Appealing were the legends that the name California means "fiery furnace" inspired by hills on fire with poppies before the Padres' eyes: and the first name of Pasadena, "San Pasqual," meaning holy Easter, was also inspired by the poppies, a field of which on Easter morn bringing the exclamation from

a padre's lips, "Behold the altar cloth of holy Easter!"

Election proceeds kept as directors Mrs. Mary A. Greer, R. R. McLean, Frederick Jackson, Miss Alice Halliday, Mrs. R. R. McLean and Arthur Shoven. Officers are the same: R. R. McLean, vice-president; Frederick Jackson, treasurer, and Mrs. DeForrest Ward, secretary. Mrs. Mary A. Greer continues as president and deserves a sentence all to herself for that and for presiding at meetings so competently and interestingly. Mr. Jackson made both the treasury and secretarial reports and it seems there are 75 new members, all very nice and many very kindly taking out sustaining memberships which do the association much good. John D. Wimmer was announced as the new editor of the magazine and he's a good one, take it from us. Calls up contributors and makes it a pleasure to get copy in on time. That's editing.

Fred Wylie and his pictures of the magnolia gardens in South Carolina will be the July program feature—July 20. Mrs. Greer kindly informs us making it not necessary to consult a calendar. Put it down on your date calendar, though. Mr. Wylie and pictures are some things—don't miss 'em.

Dewey Kelly's patio barbecue at his nursery on Pacific Blvd. at the Pacific Beach crossing, was studied recently. Has lots, as the saying goes. Hearth 30 inches high so back won't break, grate on windlass so meat won't burn or smoke, firebrick on inside so piece won't pop off and hit eye and—see Sunday Union for more details. Signing off now.

Vegetables may be used as decorative features of a design almost as the main flower garden is used. Interesting patterns may be made by a combination of flowers and vegetables.

In Behalf of Magenta

To include what the French colorists value as "cerise" and in fact practically the entire gamut of blue-reds as magenta is far too loose interpretation and faulty nomenclature. Nevertheless the odium of this association with what Louise Beebe Wilder calls "the much maligned magenta" persists in the classification of flowers, and not only the rather rare ones of this true hue but many blue-reds are in disrepute on this account. It is in their defense that we speak.

Gardeners are sorely tried when flowers, so enticingly described by catalogues and nurserymen as old rose and dusty pink, flaunt their magenta faces. Much of this feeling is due to the disappointment of having them forever pop up in unwanted places and as unexpected gypsy seedlings. There is a boldness that is annoying about their "Topsy-like" sturdiness, but not a little of the malice held them comes from the association with their frequent misuse in color combinations.

If apparently, you have that chemical something in your touch that makes plants flourish and flower in this despised hue, do not despair but capitalize upon it and achieve something really lovely.

Blue-reds are most attractive when combined with blues and blue-violets, the colors so closely related to them. Bougainvillea sanderiana is commoner than the other perhaps more desirable and less hardy varieties. It is stunning seen tumbling over a roof (not painted orange-red), near where a spreading Jacaranda blooms. When a tree cannot be planted, some "Heavenly Blue" morning glories or any of the new Japanese varieties, that come in all shades of blue, used with Bougainvillea are a happy combination. Convolvulus mauretanicus planted on your hillside with that useful Merembryanthemum - floribundum softens the effect tremendously and is really very attractive. Morning-glories and the coarser Mesembry-

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When to Cut Flowers Fertilizer Analyzed

If a little consideration is given to the time of gathering flowers, it will be found that the cut blooms will last much longer than if cutting is done haphazardly. Different sorts require different treatment, and the following notes are the result of many years of flower gathering for home decoration and for market work.

Tulips should be cut just when the buds have colored, but before the petals actually begin to expand. These buds will develop in water and last as long as if they had actually been allowed to remain on the plants. Roses should be cut in the evening and here again it is advisable to cut fairly tight buds. Sweet peas are best cut early in the morning while the dew is still upon them. They will then retain their delicate fragrance, coloring and beauty much longer than if they were gathered after several hours' exposure to the hot sun.

Poppies are usually regarded as being of little value for indoor decoration. They certainly drop quickly if picked when they are fully opened, but try gathering buds which are well colored, and before placing them in water char the ends of the stems in a candle or gas flame. You will be surprised how well they will open, also the length of time they will last. Gladioli should be cut late in the afternoon, choosing those spikes which have only the bottom one or two blooms open. All the other buds right to the top of the spike will open in water. After cutting, allow the spikes to lie in the sun for about twenty minutes; this ensures the spikes lasting longer.

Lilies also should be cut late in the afternoon; they should be placed out of water, in a cool, shady place for half an hour, then put in water. Cut Iris in the dusk, selecting those buds in which the color is just showing.

Among flowers which never expand well once they are cut are Coreopsis, Cornflower, Chrysanthemum, Marguerite, Aster, Dornicum, (Continued on Page 7)

The purpose of this article is to inform the reader as to what fertilizer really is, what it does and why it is necessary to use it in order to grow good flowers and shrubs.

To begin with a complete fertilizer (or plant food) is composed of three principal elements, namely Nitrogen, Phosphoric Acid and Potash because these are the elements that are most likely to be lacking in the soil. There are a number of other elements that are necessary in very small quantities to plant life such as sulphur, boron, lime, zinc and several others, but these rarer elements are almost always present in sufficient quantities and should not be added unless it is definitely proved that they are needed.

Sulphur is always a benefit to the heavier type of California soils because there is nearly always too much alkali present. Sulphur will tend to reduce this and also loosen up heavy dense soil and make it easier to cultivate. Lime will also break up hard soil but lime is alkaline and tends to add more alkali to the soil. If the soil were uniformly acid as it is in Southeastern United States, lime would be the thing to use, but California soils are in most cases on the alkaline side. The ideal soil for most plants is one that is nearly neutral, that is, neither acid nor alkaline. When sulphur (or lime) is used it should be used separately and not as an ingredient in mixed fertilizer because sulphur is beneficial as a soil conditioner where needed and not as a plant food.

Nitrogen is the growth producer or, to be more specific, leaf producer, and the element most likely to be deficient in the soil. There are two sources of nitrogen, namely organic and chemical. Organic nitrogen is derived mostly from blood meal, fish meal, bone meal and tankage. It might be well to state that tankage is refuse from slaughterhouses, dead animals and butcher's scraps, prepared for commercial use. The refuse animal matter of

By CHARLES SCALES

all kinds is cooked with steam, usually under pressure. This cooking disintegrates the tissues and sets free most of the fat. After cooking, the fat is pressed out and then the tankage is dried and ground.

Blood meal is high in nitrogen (about 13 to 14%) but has no phosphoric acid because it contains no bone. Fish meal contains from 9 to 11% nitrogen and a small amount of phosphoric acid from the bone. Tankage contains about 7% nitrogen. Organic nitrogen is slower to act than chemical nitrogen but feeds the plant for a much longer period of time.

In the chemical nitrogen group, sulphate of ammonia is by far the most popular. It is very high in nitrogen, containing 20½%, and has an acid reaction. Nitrate of lime and nitrate of soda each contain from 15 to 16% nitrogen and are very quick acting. Care must be used in applying any chemical nitrogen for small amounts only can be used.

Phosphoric acid and potash promote the growth of wood and the development of an extensive root system. Potash particularly, helps the roots and it must be remembered that a plant is no better than its roots. They also increase the general vitality of the plant, help it to resist disease, give a better color to the flowers and make cut flowers last longer.

Phosphoric acid, like nitrogen, is derived both from organic and chemical sources.

Organic phosphate is all derived from the bones of animals or fish.

Chemical phosphate is known to the trade as superphosphate and is made by treating phosphate rock with sulphuric acid to make it available to plants.

Practically all potash is inorganic but of two kinds, namely muriate of potash and sulphate of potash. Sulphate of potash is a little more expensive than muriate, however, it is much better for California soils because it has an acid reaction while muriate is alkaline.

Question Box . . .

By R. R. McLean

QUESTION: A very fine cypress tree has a large number of dead twigs hanging down as if they were cut or broken. Can you tell me the cause and remedy? Also an Italian cypress tree seems to be full of masses of dead needles. The tree is beginning to look a little badly. What in your opinion causes this?

F. W. W.

ANSWER: *The cypress twig borer is probably responsible for the twig injury. This borer is a small, dark brown beetle that bores into the axils or forks of twigs causing the latter to fall and die although not completely severed from the branch. The greatest amount of injury is done in the spring and summer. Ordinarily control is not necessary and could cost more than the amount of injury would warrant. In case you care to experiment, however, you can use a spray composed of well-mixed arsenate of lead, 4 ounces, black leaf 40, 1½ ounces, Volck or similar oil, ¼ pints and water, 10 gallons. Spray thoroughly in the spring and repeat occasionally. Also clean up any dead cypress or pine limbs or logs that may be near, as these beetles breed under the bark of such rubbish.*

The Italian cypress has probably been attacked by one of the cypress moths. The larvae feed on the needles and make nests of masses of dead needles. The only practical control seems to be to open up the branches as much as possible and hose out the nests with a strong stream of water. Then spray with the material outlined above. Keep Italian cypress trees growing well, above all things, see that they have perfect drainage. Too much water and poor drainage will injure an Italian cypress quicker than anything else and it then becomes the ready prey of moths and borers.

QUESTION: I have lemon trees across the road from a reservoir. Snails come from the wet ground and weeds around the water and eat the lemon leaves. Sometimes I find over a hundred snails in a single tree. What would be the best method to get rid of them? Can the reservoir owners be required to do something to prevent

these snails from migrating to my property?

J. S. W.

ANSWER: *The wet grounds around a reservoir are ideal places for snails to breed. In several sections not far from the coast these snails present a very definite problem to citrus grove owners. When present in numbers very real damage is done. At this time of year they stay up in the trees the greater part of the day, possibly coming down at night or during cloudy weather to feed on grass, weeds, etc., should there be fog or mist. The writer has a record of over 400 snails being taken from one small lemon tree in your vicinity.*

Two methods of control are advised, handpicking and poisoning. For some reason or other it is difficult to sell the handpicking idea to many owners of infested groves, although it is by far the most direct and certain method of control. The snails cluster on the tree trunks and larger limbs and to a lesser extent on the leaves in the lower part of the trees within easy reach of pickers. Trees can be very quickly rid of these pests at relatively low cost by handpicking. Some snails will be overlooked of course and the scattering of a poisoned bran mash around and under infested trees should take care of the stragglers, providing the weather is favorable for feeding. Snails sometimes "seal up," especially during warm, dry weather, and for this reason handpicking is the surest method of getting rid of them at such times. The poisoned mash is made by mixing bran and calcium arsenate together dry, 16 pounds of the former to one of the latter and adding sufficient water to make a crumbly, not wet, mash. Scatter in the evening, not during the day when the mash might dry out.

Although owners of surrounding properties, including reservoirs, can be legally required to join in control measures, the co-operation of these owners can usually be secured without going to this extreme.

QUESTION: Can you tell me if there are any poisonous plants around in this section that one has to guard

children against? I know that toadstools are poisonous but thought there might also be some plants that children should keep away from.

Mrs. W.

ANSWER: *Although toadstools (mushrooms) are perhaps the most common poisonous plants children would be apt to get bold of, there are several others that should also be avoided. Oleanders secrete a very poisonous sap and children should not be allowed to handle the broken twigs or the foliage. Apparently the danger arises largely in handling the cut or broken stems of the flowers and twigs, particularly if there are cuts or abrasions on the hand.*

The beans or seeds of castor plants are quite poisonous. Children like to play with these beans and many cases of poisoning have occurred because not content with playing with them, children have also tried to eat them. It is safer to cut down all castor plants around the place. Presumably the poison principle exists in castor bean leaves also, as insects are often poisoned by feeding on them.

A third poisonous plant, less common than the others but still found in out-of-the-way places, is the jimson weed, attractive to children because of its large, white, bell-shaped flowers. Here again the seeds, appearing in the late summer and fall, contain the poison principle.

There may be and probably are other poisonous plants around us, but those named are the most common.

QUESTION: I have had considerable trouble in getting any plants to grow properly in my yard. I suppose something is wrong with the soil, although what it is I don't know. Would it do any good to have the soil analyzed and if so, where can I have it done?

S. O. R.

ANSWER: *There are several local soil analysts who can give you a good soil analysis, but it is very doubtful if that would solve your difficulty. An analysis to determine if the soil is excessively alkaline or acid would be more to the point. Under ordinary conditions, if the soil is not too alkaline or too acid, the proper application of fertilizers, the timely use of water and the securing of necessary drainage should be all that is required to grow plants properly. Although an analysis of the soil would tell what elements*

were in the soil, it would not indicate how available they were. If you continue to have trouble, you might get in touch with the writer's office at Franklin 1321, or with the Farm Advisor, Main 0124, and ask that an inspector be sent out to give you some assistance and advice based upon whatever the inspection reveals.

QUESTION: I would very much like to collect some cactus and other desert plants in eastern San Bernardino and Riverside counties. Do you know if there is any permission to be secured and if so, from whom? Are there any state laws to be observed in making collections?

ANSWER: Both Riverside and San Bernardino counties have plant protection ordinances, so that it will be necessary for you to secure permits from the proper officials before making collections. Presumably your requests should be directed to the county forester of each county, addressed at Riverside and San Bernardino.

There is also a state law covering collections on state and county rights-of-way. It reads, in part, as follows: "Every person who within the State of California wilfully or negligently cuts, destroys, mutilates or removes any native tree, shrub or portion of any native tree or shrub, or any fern growing upon state or county rights-of-way * * * shall be guilty of a misdemeanor * * *"

When to Cut Flowers

(Continued From Page 5)

Centaurea and Pyrethrum. These should be cut in the early morning when they are just fully expanded. Dahlias sometimes prove disappointing as cut flowers, but if the bottoms of the stems are stripped bare, then plunged in water as hot as the hand will bear for a few moments, and placed in the dark for a few hours they will last a considerable time. —Cecil Solly

in Northwest Gardens.

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Adam's Profession and It's Conquest of Eve

By Julian R. Meade

In order to enjoy "Adam's Profession and its Conquest by Eve" by Julian R. Meade (N.Y. Longmans Green, \$2.50) you should belong to the group of gardeners which occupies the half-way point between the Beverly Nichols and Marian Cran camp and that school of horticultural purists who keep strictly to the straight, narrow, scientific and informative way. It is no book for one of these purists, but if you like your garden talk diluted with plenty of conversation and salted with *sotto voce* remarks this is the book for you.

At first I thought the lighter side was overdone and too drawn out, but the further I got the more I enjoyed it, chiefly because Mr. Meade has such a good time relieving his feelings about some of the major facilities and pretenses which so often attend garden clubs, flower shows, and gardening individuals. We each have our Mrs. Hobbs and our Mrs. Tutweiler, we sympathize with the author when he is given seeds he cannot possibly use and when he scavenges manure; we entirely agree with his remarks that "the literary crowd seem to delight in horticultural inaccuracies" and that "they are careful enough to distinguish between Herbert Hoover and Franklin D. Roosevelt in the White House but they have no time for the difference between Herbert Hoover and Franklin D. Roosevelt in the rose bed." And we can all join in his enthusiasm over a day alone in the garden. It is interesting, too, to learn that people in Virginia also overdo the planting of *Cedrus deodara*.

But there are a few things which (Continued on Page 8)

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An Adonis Garden

THE HILL TOP FARMER, in the last issue, told us of the pleasures of pot gardening which reminds us of a story, a Greek Myth, of the origin of gardening with pots. It seems that the women of Greece admired handsome men and particularly loved Adonis. He represented, among other things, the spirit of the green growing world, a very real representation because with the first frosts he languished and with death descended to the nether regions. The story does not tell of his winter life but each spring the same event could be expected. Aphrodite, who was able to stand the vigorous winters, went in search of the handsome god and was always successful in bringing him back to warmth and life with the returning sunlight. The Greek women mourned the fall disappearance of Adonis and celebrated his vernal resurrection. Preparation for the spring festival took the form of planting in pots and baskets quick germinating seeds such as barley, lettuce and fennel. When these were up the pots were grouped around an image of Adonis on the flat roofs of Greek houses. This "Garden of Adonis" is the origin of pot gardening.

Because of the short lived plants used in these, the expression an "Adonis Garden" has come to mean any fleeting pleasure. —J. D. W.

Adam's Profession

(Continued From Page 7)

puzzle the California gardener. For instance that *Phacelia grandiflora*, a large-flowered plant often over three feet tall, should be described as "an attractive little plant" and that Santa Monica's climate should be considered representative of this whole long state where at least four distinct climates and floras exist.

In spite of a few lapses the book rings true, and though it probably has no permanent reference value it is a grand book to read, even if the padding is perhaps a little thin in spots. —Lester Rowntree,
Carmel, Calif.

The Redwoods

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following communication which came to Mrs. Greer just as we were going to press will likely be of interest to many of our members who will be able to take advantage of its splendid offers. Take this copy of the California Garden with you on your northern trip. Since the inception of the Save-the-Redwoods League, the San Diego Floral Association has regularly contributed to its support and membership.

June 29, 1937.

My dear Mrs. Greer:

Through contribution from the Garden Club of America, provision has been made during the summer for a naturalist to be stationed at the Garden Club of America Redwood Grove in the Humboldt State Redwood Park. He is there not only to protect the grove and to make certain studies of its flora and fauna, but also to serve as guide to members of the Garden Club or friends of the Save-the-Redwoods program who may be visiting the Redwoods. It is hoped that you will plan, during the summer, to make a trip to the Redwood Parks, and if you plan to visit the Garden Club Grove it is suggested that you drop a line to Mr. Stanley Bee, Custodian, Garden Club of America Redwood Grove, Weott, California, telling him approximately when you expect to be at the grove. He will show you the trails and be in a position to tell you many interesting things about this grove and the Redwoods generally. A message can be sent to Mr. Bee by telephone or telegram, care Mr. E. P. French, District Superintendent, Dyerville, California (telephone WEott 4-Y-4).

Again this year for the benefit of friends of the Save-the-Redwoods League who may be visiting Humboldt and Del Norte Counties during the summer, the League will have a guide with an open car who will be glad to take them to the various groves, if notice is given him in advance. His name is Mr. Robert E. Connick, and he can be reached at the Connick Camp near Garberville, or the Hotel Benbow; or Mrs. E. P. French at Richardson Grove will get in touch with him. If you know of anyone who is plan-

Magenta

(Continued From Page 4)

anthemums might combine well also.

If you have the yen to be quite different, dare to do an entire garden in blues and blue-reds as a Pasadena decorator has done with success. Some very effective combinations are *Anchusa italica* and *Valerian*, *Larkspur* and *magenta Petunias*, *Chinese Delphinium* or *Dwarf Blue Penstemon* and *Garden Pinks*. Use *Foxgloves* or *Hollyhocks* for your blue-red spires and *Japanese Anemones*, *Penstemon*, *Phlox*, *Rehmannia* and *Azaleas* for variety of flower forms in this color. There are many attractive blues and blue-violets to compose with these: *Agapanthus*, *Delphinium*, *Verbena*, *Violas*, *Campanulas*, *Iris*, *Dwarf Blue Ageratum*, *Lupine*, *Scabiosa*, *Asters* and *Salvia* (*pitcheri*) are suggestions. Remember in planning your groups and pictures that either your blues or blue-reds must be predominant and to attain this they can not both be of the same color value. Remember, that if you place your blue-reds in shade or semi-shade it will bring out the blue rather than red tones in them.

The idea of this color scheme failing to please you there is still opportunity to salvage the so-called magentas of the flower kingdom. They may be combined with rosy shades and tints of themselves or used with creamy white as a foil. In any case since we seem to be thrice blessed in the abundance of this hue, let us try to achieve more harmony by placating and bending it to our will rather than let it become our master. —H. B. W.

ning to visit the Redwood groves and would like the benefit of Mr. Connick's guidance, and the experience of seeing the Redwood groves from an open car, please have them get in touch with him, as indicated. We should also be glad to make arrangements from the office of the Save-the-Redwoods League (telephone DOuglas 2353).

Very sincerely yours,
NEWTON B. DRURY.

Farthest North Date Trees

On Wolfskill U. C. Tract

Two seedling date trees, as far as known the oldest in California and the farthest north bearing dates in the world, came into possession of the University of California on the Wolfskill farm bequest. These trees, grown from date seeds, were planted about 1859 or 1860, and are producing crops every year, according to Dr. W. P. Tufts, head of the pomology division of the College of Agriculture.

Luckily, the two trees were of different sex, so that the date blossoms were pollinated. While they are seedlings, the dates are edible and of good quality. The trees will be preserved, as they stand near the old farm mansion and will not interfere with the planting of the hundred-acre tract for experimental purposes.

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The Small Garden

(Continued From Page 2)

informally or as picturesquely as you choose. Such design will have the effect of making the area appear larger and will usually give more space for planting. For this reason a rectangle is the simplest and most satisfactory form about which to build. Use straight lines to emphasize the long dimensions. Repeat the lines of the house and property by means of walks, hedges, flower borders, fencing and soft shrub borders. The proper relation of lines such as these with the dominant house structure is the trick that makes a garden "belong."

At times we hear a person regret that his garden is not level. If that slope is not a canyon side he should thank deity or his own good judgment in buying such a lot, for no single thing will give greater charm and interest than a change of levels. Just a broad step or two will make a magic change in any small garden.

If your garden is not pleasing to you don't hesitate to tear out and re-vamp. What is more fun these summer week-ends than to do-over your garden. —J. D. W.

SOME RECOMMENDED BOOKS

Alwood, Montagu C., "Carnations." London: Scribners, 1926.

Byne and Byne, "Spanish Gardens and Patios, Philadelphia:" L. B. Lippincott Co., 1924. (Excellent for illustrations and some plans.)

Fox, Helen Morganthau, "Patio Gardens." New York: Macmillan Co., 1929.

Hoyt, Roland S. "Planting Lists for Southern California." Los Angeles: Livingston Press. (The best available for brief description of

Care of Roses

(Continued From Page 1)

so thick in two beds that I removed everything down to the ground. These beds must have a commercial fertilizer and be covered to the depth of about two inches with horticultural peat moss. In the other beds I am pulling out the Bermuda grass before it becomes established—a task that requires qualities in which I am lacking, industry and patience. I am inclined to appreciate what Richelieu said, "Leave patience to the dogs, for I am human." Probably twice during the summer, I will give each bush about a tablespoonful of blood meal.

This, in the main, is what I shall be doing for the roses until fall, and I fear it will not leave many days for fishing trips.

BY THE SPIRIT OF MY GARDEN

But you work for the joy that reposes

In a beauty that never knows stain,
And the odor and bloom of the roses

Is the golden coin you will gain.

plant material for local use.)

Mitchell, S. B. "Gardening in California." New York: Doubleday Doran and Co., 1930. (For many, a gardener's bible.)

Ortloff, N. S. "Perennial Gardens." New York: Macmillan Co., 1931. (Fine color combinations.)

Wilson, E. H. "Aristocrats of the Garden." Boston: Stratford Co., 1926. (One of the most delightful of garden books. A good chapter on Pacific Coast plants.)

—J. D. W.

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